



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,540	07/13/2001	Michael Dean McCutchan	8169M	3927

27752 7590 01/14/2004
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER
BECKER, DREW E

ART UNIT 1761	PAPER NUMBER
------------------	--------------

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,540

Applicant(s)

MCCUTCHAN, MICHAEL DEAN

Examiner

Drew E Becker

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed October 10, 2001 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because the Non Patent Literature references do not disclose a publication date. Applicant's attorney could not provide dates for these references when called on November 25, 2002. In order to speed along prosecution, it will be assumed that the publication dates of these references were sometime before the filing date of this application since they are described in the specification. This would equate to 102(a) or 102(b) publication dates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claim 6 is dependent upon canceled claim 4. It is not clear what claim it should depend from.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snack-a-Dip [sample] in view of Yan Yan Snacks Meiji [sample] and Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa [Table 1 of applicant's specification].

Snack-a-Dip teaches a kit comprising a canister containing a plurality of snack pieces, an attached tub containing a dip condiment, the kit having a space efficiency of about 0.126 g/cm^3 , the canister having a sidewall, bottom wall, and top opening; a snack piece to dip ratio of 1.5; and a removable lid. Snack-a-Dip does not disclose a space efficiency greater than 0.20 and an area of 1,900 to 10,000 mm^2 . Yan Yan Snacks Meiji teaches a kit comprising a canister containing snack pieces, a tub containing dip condiment, and a space efficiency of 0.228 (page 6, Table 1 of applicants' specification). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the space efficiency of Yan Yan into the kit of Snack-a-Dip since both were directed to kits containing snack pieces and dip condiments, since it was commonly known to decrease shipping costs by packing goods together with less unused air space, and since space efficiencies of 0.228 were commonly known and used for food kits as shown by Yan Yan. Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa teach a chip and dip package which contains snack pieces with an average area of 3700 mm^2 [Table 1 of applicant's specification]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the snack piece size of Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa into the invention of Snack-a-Dip since both are directed to chip and dip kits, since Snack-a-Dip already

Art Unit: 1761

included chips, and since the larger chips of Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa would have provided a larger area to grip the chip and thus reduce the chance of getting dip on one's fingers.

7. Claims 5 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snack-a-Dip, in view of Yan Yan Snacks Meiji and Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa, as applied above, and further in view of Bezek et al.

Snack-a-Dip, Yan Yan Snacks Meiji, and Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa teach the above mentioned components. Snack-a-Dip, Doritos Dippas Chips & Salsa, and Yan Yan do not teach a triangular shape or nested chips. Bezek et al also teaches a kit comprising a triangular canister containing nested chips (column 7, line 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the triangular shape of Bezek et al into the kit of Snack-a-Dip since both are directed to chip containers, since Snack-a-Dip already included triangular tortilla chips, and since triangular shaped canisters were commonly used for chip containers as shown by Bezek et al (column 7, line 16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the stacked chips of Bezek et al into the kit of Snack-a-Dip since both are directed to chip containers, since Snack-a-Dip already included tortilla chips, and since stacking the chips, as done by Bezek et al, would have provided a higher space efficiency as well as helping to prevent the chips from being broken during transport.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-6, and 17-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Drew E Becker whose telephone number is 571-272-1396. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-6pm.

Art Unit: 1761

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-0987.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Becker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Drew E Becker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761